

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising stem cells for introducing into a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining adipose tissue from said patient;
 - (b) processing said adipose tissue to separate cells therein from other tissue components; and
 - (c) purifying the separated cells from other tissue components;
- wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other purified cells, thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising adipose tissue-derived stem cells.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said purified cell population further comprises one or more cells selected from the group consisting of: red blood cells, white blood cells, fibroblasts, fibroblast-like cells, neutrophils, monocyte/macrophages, and basophils.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said purified cell population further comprises one or more tissue components selected from the group consisting of: extracellular matrix polypeptides or fragments thereof, proteoglycans, cytokines, and growth factors.

4.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said adipose tissue is obtained from the tail head region of the ~~animal~~ patient.

21. (Original) A method of preparing a composition comprising purified adipose tissue-derived stem cells for introducing into an animal, comprising:

- (a) obtaining adipose tissue from the tail head region of said animal;
- (b) processing said adipose tissue to separate cells therein from other tissue components; and
- (c) purifying the separated cells from other tissue components, thereby preparing a composition comprising purified adipose tissue-derived stem cells.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises one or more cells selected from the group consisting of: red blood cells, white blood cells, fibroblasts, fibroblast-like cells, neutrophils, monocyte/macrophages, and basophils.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises one or more tissue components selected from the group consisting of: extracellular matrix polypeptides or fragments thereof, proteoglycans, cytokines, and growth factors.

24.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method of providing a composition comprising purified stem cells for introducing into a patient, comprising:

- (a) processing collagen-based tissue obtained from a patient to separate cells therein from other tissue components;
- (b) purifying the separated cells; and
- (c) placing said separated cells in a container, thereby providing a composition comprising purified stem cells.

33.-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said collagen-based tissue is adipose tissue or umbilical cord matrix.

38. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other purified cells.

39.-79. (Cancelled)

80. (Original) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells for delivery to a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining collagen-based tissue from said patient;
- (b) processing said collagen-based tissue to separate cells therein from other tissue components; and

- (c) purifying the separated cells,

wherein said processing comprises contacting said collagen-based tissue with a series of screens, thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells.

81.-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Original) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells for providing to a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining collagen-based tissue from said patient; and
- (b) processing said collagen-based tissue to isolate cells therein from other tissue components,

wherein said processing comprises contacting the tissue with a surface to which the tissue adheres, thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells.

97.-150. (Cancelled)